

rights and his presentation at the New York panel. I would like to insert this press release into the RECORD at this time.

S. GURTEJ SINGH EXPOSES INDIAN TYRANNY AT SEMINAR

WASHINGTON, D.C., May 16, 2002.—The Sikh Nation appreciates the contributions of S. Gurtej Singh IAS, who spoke at a seminar in New York last week. He exposed the genocide of the Indian government and the betrayal and corruption of the Akali Dal leadership in his book, *Chakravayuh: Web of Indian Secularism*, and in his speech he gave historical facts about the sovereign, independent Sikh state and the independence of the Sikh religion since its inception. He explained how the Hindu majority wants to assimilate the Sikh religion and establish a Hindu Rashtra. We recommend that everyone read his book.

"S. Gurtej Singh has done an excellent job of exposing the connivance of the Akali leaders, such as Badal, Tohra, and Mann, with the Indian government in its campaign of terror against the Sikh Nation," said Dr. Gurmit Singh Aulakh, President of the Council of Khalistan. "He is to be saluted," Dr. Aulakh said. "The Sikh Nation needs more good Sikhs like S. Gurtej Singh if it is ever to end the oppression." The Council of Khalistan is the government pro tempore of Khalistan, the Sikh homeland that declared its independence from India on October 7, 1987. The Council of Khalistan leads the Sikh Nation's struggle for independence.

"Gurtej Singh's presentation was excellent and he made a detailed presentation of the abuses and oppression of the Sikh Nation," Dr. Aulakh said. "The time has come to throw out the conniving Sikh leadership of the Akalis and Congress and unite behind committed, principled, pro-Sikh leaders who are committed to freedom," he said.

The Indian government has murdered over 250,000 Sikhs since 1984. Over 75,000 Kashmiri Muslims have been killed since 1988. More than 200,000 Christians have been killed since 1947, along with tens of thousands of Dalits, Tamils, Assamese, Bodos, Manipuris, and other minorities. Last month, police stood by as militant Hindus attacked Muslims in Gujarat. Over 5000 people died, according to the Indian newspaper *The Hindu*. The Indian government paid twice as much compensation to the families of Hindus who were killed as it paid to Muslims who were killed.

The U.S. State Department reported in 1994 that the Indian government paid out over 41,000 cash bounties to police officers for killing Sikhs. Since Christmas 1998, a wave of violence against Christians has seen priests murdered, nuns being raped, churches being burned, Christian schools and prayer halls destroyed, and no one has been punished for these acts. Militant Hindu fundamentalists allied with the pro-Fascist RSS, the parent organization of the ruling BJP, burned missionary Graham Staines and his two young sons to death.

"For the survival of the Sikh Nation, the time has come to launch a Shantmai Morcha (peaceful agitation) to liberate Khalistan from Indian occupation," Dr. Aulakh said. "I call on the Sikh leadership in Punjab to begin a Shantmai Morcha immediately. If they will not, the Sikh Nation should rid itself of them and support leaders who will do so," he said. "I also call on the United States government to support freedom for Khalistan and the other minority nations seeking their freedom from India," he said. "Sikhs are a separate nation and ruled Punjab until 1849. No Sikh has signed the Indian constitution," Dr. Aulakh said.

Sikhism is a sovereign, independent, monotheistic religion which believes in the equality of the whole human race, including

gender equality. Sikhs pray every day for the well being of all humanity. The Sikh Nation was established as sovereign. Guru gave political power to the Sikh Nation. ("In Grief Sikhhan Ko Deon Patshahi.") "Freedom and self-determination are the birthright of all peoples and nations. The people of South Asia must have self-determination now," Dr. Aulakh said. "India is on the verge of disintegration," he said. "Khalistan will be free by 2008."

SEPTEMBER 11 ANNIVERSARY

HON. DAVID VITTER

OF LOUISIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 30, 2002

Mr. VITTER. Mr. Speaker, on September 11, 2001 our people, our democracy, and our values were attacked in a cowardly and reprehensible way. I visited the Pentagon two days after the attacks, and the sheer devastation viewed in person was beyond the imagination.

When I made it back home to Louisiana, I hugged my wife and kids and could not help but think of the people who never returned home on September 11. That fateful day introduced us to hundreds of heroes. And it reintroduced us to the wonderful spirit of our nation.

I visited Ground Zero for the Commemorative Joint Meeting of Congress one year later and visited the Pentagon on the anniversary of the attacks. These sites—along with the Pennsylvania crash site—stand as reminders of the devastation our country suffered, but they also remind us that America is not devastated.

We are unified in the knowledge that democracy and freedom will prevail. People across the country have, over the last year, demonstrated to the world that terrorism can never destroy our way of life. And I am proud of our country, proud of my fellow citizens for the patriotism, spirit, and strength they have shown over the last year.

It is a great honor to serve in Congress at this time, and I take very seriously my pledge to protect and defend the United States of America.

May God bless us all, and may He continue to bless our great nation.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JIM McDERMOTT

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 30, 2002

Mr. McDERMOTT. Mr. Speaker, I missed some votes because I was traveling. I left for Iraq on Wednesday to get a better understanding of how a preemptive U.S. military strike against Iraq will affect the Iraqi people. Had I been able to, I would have voted:

"No" on H. Res. 552 (rollcall vote No. 416).

"No" on Approving the Journal (rollcall vote No. 417).

"Yes" on the Motion to Instruct Conferees on H.R. 3295 (rollcall vote No. 418).

"No" on H. Res. 553 (rollcall vote No. 419).

"Yes" on the Motion to Recommit H.R. 4600 with Instructions (rollcall vote No. 420).

"No" on final passage of H.R. 4600 (rollcall vote No. 421).

"Yes" on H.R. 2215 (rollcall vote No. 422).
"Yes" on H. Res. 111 (rollcall vote No. 423).

IN HONOR OF TIMOTHY GREGORY

HON. ADAM B. SCHIFF

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 30, 2002

Mr. SCHIFF. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the work of Mr. Timothy Gregory in preserving a vital part of Southern California's architectural heritage. Over the last few years, Mr. Gregory has been instrumental in bringing to light the architectural significance of the Janes Village area.

Mr. Gregory is locally known as "The Building Biographer," and his knowledge has aided countless citizens in the community in appreciation of the architectural treasures that surround them every day. Through innumerable hours devoted to researching and informing the community about Janes Village and the vision of Elisha P. Janes, the noted local builder for whom the area is named, Mr. Gregory has almost single-handedly been responsible for the rediscovery of Mr. Janes' Altadena building projects and their spectacular architecture.

The three hundred homes built between 1924 and 1926 are part of Mr. Janes' vision to build a thousand homes in Altadena. Although he never met that mark, the hundreds of homes he did build still stand as a testament to the early years of development in the Los Angeles area. Originally billed as "Homes of Distinction in Scenic Altadena," these homes are as unique and special today as the day they were built.

These homes stand as an enduring architectural monument—three hundred homes built on nine streets, of which two thirds can be directly attributed to the work of Mr. Janes. Their distinctive English Revival style marks some of the most remarkable architecture of the time.

Thanks to the efforts of Mr. Gregory, Janes Village has now established itself not only as a Heritage Area, but as a neighborhood and community with a rich historical past. I ask all Members of Congress to join me in applauding the work of Timothy Gregory in celebrating and preserving a piece of our incredible architectural history.

INDIA CANNOT GOVERN WITHOUT THE PEOPLE'S CONSENT

HON. CYNTHIA A. MCKINNEY

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 30, 2002

Ms. MCKINNEY. Mr. Speaker, no government can govern without the consent of the governed. That is one of the founding principles of America.

Earlier this year, my friend Dr. Gurmit Singh Aulakh, President of the Council of Khalistan, issued a "New Year's Message to the Sikh Nation." In it, he noted that India is governing the Sikhs of Punjab, Khalistan, the Christians of Nagaland, the Muslims of Kashmir, and many other minority nations without their consent.

In the letter, the Council of Khalistan said that the elections earlier this year in Punjab